

CONCORDIA COUNCIL ON STUDENT LIFE

Minutes of a Meeting held in Room H-769, Sir George Williams Campus, at 4:00 P.M.
on Monday, 9 February 1981

PRESENT: Dr. R. Breen, Chairman; Mr. D. Arfin, Mr. L. Burogano, Dean B. Counihan,
Ms. S. Crompton, Mr. F. Denton (for Mr. J.A. Sproule), Ms. M.E. Diacoumacos,
Dr. E. Enos, Dean M. Flynn, Mr. R. Javitch, Ms. A. Kerby, Prof. J. Macaluso,
Mr. R. Philip, Ms. D. Brundage (Secretary)

ABSENT: Prof. R. Allison, Mr. A. Lajoie, Mr. P. Mehta, Mr. J. Revay

GUESTS: Mr. D. Boisvert, Mr. J. Dubois

Chairman's Remarks

81.2.1.0 A quorum of members being present, the Chairman opened the meeting and stated that he had no particular remarks to offer at this point in the agenda.

Approval of the Agenda

81.2.2.0 Prof. Macaluso suggested that it might be useful to include a further item on the agenda as No. 9, "New Business". It was thereupon MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the Agenda for the Meeting of 9 February 1981, with the addition of the foregoing item, be APPROVED.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of 12 January 1981

81.2.3.0 The Chairman then requested comments on, corrections to, or approval of the Minutes of the meeting of 12 January 1981. Dean Flynn drew members attention to item 81.1.4.2 and said that he wished to emphasize the point that if the Dean of Students' Office on the Sir George Williams Campus is not relocated, \$3,000 will be required to carpet the present office. Dean Flynn then MOVED and Dr. Enos SECONDED that the said Minutes be approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Interim Report, Priorities and Finance Committee

81.2.4.0 The Chairman called upon Ms. Brundage to inform Council of the activities of the Priorities and Finance Committee. The Committee has begun work on the budget recommendation for 1981/82, Ms. Brundage stated, and guidelines with regard to salary increases and potential revenue have been received from Mr. Reay. The Committee does not plan to recommend a fee increase in 1981/82 and will limit any recommended additions to the budget to accommodate this factor. The proposal will be completed in time for consideration by Council at its next meeting. Dr. Enos then MOVED and Prof. Macaluso SECONDED that Council accept the report of the Priorities and Finance Committee. MOTION CARRIED.

Athletic Awards (CCSL 81-2-D1)

81.2.5.0 Dr. Enos then spoke briefly to members about the background to the paper on athletic awards which they had received with the documentation for the meeting. He noted that the report was prepared in his department in response to a request from the Rector and Vice-Rectors. Concern has been expressed over the number of Canadian students who are going to American

universities on athletic scholarships. For this reason, the question of whether or not Canadian universities should involve themselves with some sort of scholarship or award program for athletes has been raised. There is considerable sympathy for such a program among Western universities, little in Ontario, a mixed reaction in Quebec and the Maritimes. The English universities in Quebec have expressed interest, but the French institutions have not indicated a great deal of enthusiasm. However, Dr. Enos noted, he would be attending a inter-university meeting on the subject later in the week and would be able to give members a better appreciation of the situation at their next meeting.

81.2.5.1 In general, Dr. Enos went on, his department's position is that it supports the theory of awards and scholarships for needy students. If the University is interested in turning out well rounded individuals, scholarships and awards in areas such as journalism, student government, and debating, for instance, as well as athletics, would be a valuable move in the right direction. When the financial needs of all students are met, then the University can consider scholarships to students who are not poor, but this will require a certain judgmental basis in the implementation.

81.2.5.2 In response to Prof. Macaluso's request for more information regarding the differences in attitudes between the French and English universities in Quebec, Mr. Philip noted that the French universities are exhibiting a certain concern over what is happening at the CEGEP triple-"A" level in hockey. These schools are now allowed to give scholarships and the higher calibre play which has resulted is making the French universities more aware of the need. In this instance, the emphasis is on keeping the players in school and out of the semi-professional league.

81.2.5.3 Dr. Breen and Mr. Arfin agreed that the topic was one around which a lively and intelligent debate might well centre. Since members had not had the opportunity to read the rather lengthy document, it was agreed that it would be entered upon at the next meeting of Council.

Concordia Council on Student Life Awards (CCSL 81-2-D2)

81.2.6.0 Dean Counihan informed members of the process by which in past years Council had bestowed certain awards on members of the university community who had made outstanding contributions to some aspect of student life. These awards, of several types, had been presented at a special reception held toward the end of the academic year. In Dean Counihan's opinion, this awards night was one of the good things Council had done over the years and is a tradition well worth carrying on.

*
81.2.6.1 With regard to the composition of the Awards Committee as set forth in document CCSL 81-2-D2, Mr. Arfin pointed out that the designation of student members by campus was out-of-date and should be changed to reflect the single student association which now exists. Thereupon Mr. Arfin MOVED and Dean Counihan SECONDED that the two lines referring to student representation in the "Composition of Awards Committee" section of the document headed, Ad Hoc Committee on Awards" be deleted and replaced with the following: "Two student representatives from the Concordia University Students' Association." MOTION CARRIED.

81.2.7.2 As to how representatives to the Committee would be selected, Dean Counihan said that in the past the two Deans of Students had each appointed someone from their areas, Council had elected the faculty member and the student associations had appointed their representatives. Dean Counihan then NOMINATED Prof. Macaluso as Council's faculty member. Ms. Kerby SECONDED the nomination. Dr. Enos MOVED and Dean Flynn SECONDED that nominations close. MOTION CARRIED and Prof. Macaluso declared BY ACCLAMATION to be Council's delegate to the Awards Committee.

Information Session - Handicapped Students

81.2.7.0 The Chairman introduced Ms. Kerby's presentation by noting that in the International Year of the Handicapped it was particularly appropriate that Council be made aware of what is being done for Concordia's handicapped population. Ms. Kerby said that she intended to speak about the steps that have been taken on behalf of the handicapped at Loyola over the past year and at Sir George Williams over the past two years. Then Mr. Jim Dubois would talk about the operation of the Handicapped Centre on the Sir George Williams Campus.

81.2.7.1 As a result of a Task Force set up by the Rector some two years ago, the recommendation was made that someone be appointed to co-ordinate services and facilities from a handicapped point of view and Ms. Kerby assumed this role. The mandate she received included the responsibility of studying and recommending on the needs and the developing of a priority listing. After consultation with the students involved and various members of the administration, it became clear that while the Hall Building on the Sir George Williams Campus was accessible to the handicapped, the Administration Building on the Loyola Campus was not. Approximately \$50,000 was devoted by the administration to the removal of barriers on the Loyola Campus and the construction of ramps and to certain modifications to the bathrooms on the Sir George Williams Campus. As a result of this project, both main campus areas are now accessible; however, the auxiliary buildings are not. The possibility of correcting this situation will be looked at in 1981/82 and architects are already working on it.

81.2.7.2 In order to determine what should be done for the handicapped beyond the obvious alteration to physical resources, Ms. Kerby said, a serious effort had gone into studying these students and their problems. It became clear that attitudinal barriers existed in some areas of the University and to overcome these, work was undertaken with the student clubs and the faculty association. As far as a formal policy with regard to the handicapped is concerned, Ms. Kerby expressed the opinion that this would not be a good thing. It is important that these students not feel segregated and different from everyone else. Nothing is said in the calendar, for instance, regarding handicapped students; however, it is likely that the Rector will ask various areas to evaluate their services from the point of view of the handicapped and develop consideration for them. Ms. Kerby has access to a small budget which is used to support certain activities on behalf of the handicapped.

81.2.7.3 Although a formal policy regarding handicapped students has not been promulgated, some publicity of Concordia's services has been undertaken.

The Admissions Offices will include a rip-out card for handicapped students in their package and the student government has incorporated information on services available to the handicapped in their publication. The Public Relations Office has launched a campaign with the media about what is going on in this area at Concordia and very good publicity is resulting. The Liaison Office are planning to distribute a brochure aimed at handicapped recruitment. All of these activities may result in Concordia's handicapped population tripling in the next two or three years.

- 81.2.7.4 The Deans of Students' Offices handle the day-to-day services provided to the handicapped. These include a lot of intervention with departments, scheduling, acting as advocate and removing barriers. They also provide information to students on what services are available to them through the City or the Province. The Librairies, Health Services and Physical Resources have tried very hard to help the handicapped but more could be done. Many people would prefer not to deal with handicapped persons and in-service work is required in some departments to change this attitude.
- 81.2.7.5 One of the needs is identification of the handicapped. Ms. Kerby said she believes their number at present is between seventy-five and one hundred. Not all require special services and some will not seek them out. Some are only temporarily disabled and some need assistance only at the beginning of term.
- 81.2.7.6 As a special project in connection with the International Year of the Handicapped, Ms. Kerby has planned the publication of a book to include photographs, letters, poems and so on by our handicapped students. A number of events sponsored by various clubs and fraternities and the Health Fair also focussed on the International Year. Finally, a \$10,000 fund drive has been launched to provide an adapted vehicle so that the handicapped can achieve full participation in our two-campus institution.
- 81.2.7.7 Ms. Kerby, in her role as Co-ordinator of Services for the Handicapped, is advised by a board which consists of nine members of the university community. Its functions include the setting of policy, the overseeing of publications and the preparing of an annual report.
- 81.2.7.8 Mr. Dubois began by observing that he was not optimistic about any long range effect on the problems of the handicapped resulting from the International Year. However, he said that Concordia has done a lot for handicapped students and has demonstrates that it cares. He then went on to speak of the Handicapped Centre on the Sir George Williams Campus and noted that a forty page report on its activities is available in the Centre to anyone who is interested.
- 81.2.7.9 Some of the services available through the Centre include help with the cafeteria, getting to the library, having examinations specially given and monitored, getting between campus buildings and the fixing of wheelchair malfunctions, including flat tires. Most of the labour involved is volunteer, but is very effective. It is preferable if the person who requires a service notifies the Centre a day in advance; however, on-the-spot service is available when required.

81.2.7.9 Another aspect of the Centre's operation is its function as a drop-in facility where handicapped students can have coffee, make friends and gain emotional support. Not all handicapped use the Centre; some avoid it because it makes them feel "more handicapped". With regard to attitudes, Mr. Dubois said, the handicapped are as nice and as nasty as the general population and it is important to remember this fact. What the handicapped want is to be treated like everyone else and not as special cases. "Try to see the person, not the handicap."

81.2.7.10 The Centre is also a source of information to the handicapped. Some have personal problems and need to be referred for counselling. Mr. Dubois said he is in close contact with a variety of organizations and centres throughout the City, so that his referral service is quite comprehensive.

81.2.7.11 The Chairman then thanked Ms. Kerby and Mr. Dubois for their illuminating presentations and mentioned his pride that so much has been accomplished in this important area over the past two years.

81.2.7.12 Ms. Diacoumacos then enquired if plans for the new library building included provision for accessibility, and was assured they did. Prof. Macaluso then offered the observation that considering Concordia's multi-building campuses, the best safety factor was the telephone. If it is impossible to make the whole University accessible, then it vital that good communication exists between the various departments and units. Dean Flynn expressed his appreciation of the very good communication and liaison which Ms. Kerby and Mr. Dubois have created between themselves. He also stressed how important it is that the wall which Council approved for the Centre be erected. The privacy it will allow Mr. Dubois and any students he may be interviewing will be invaluable.

Reports from Directors

81.2.8.0 Dean Flynn distributed copies of a report on the emergency loan fund on the Sir George Williams Campus (CCSL 81-2-D3) to members. Most of these loans are repaid when loan or bursary money is received by the students. It might be useful, Dean Flynn added, for Council to have an information session with the two Financial Aid Officers. Dean Counihan stated that approximately \$14,500 has been turned over on the Loyola Campus. The bulk of it has been repaid since the bursaries arrived. It might be useful, Dean Counihan continued, to review the total turnover at year-end; it may be that Council would want to recommend that the size of the funds be increased.

81.2.8.1 Plans are underway, said Dean Counihan, for International Week to take place the first week in March. Activities will include films and a reception. The Health Fair will take place again this year on 17 and 18 February in the Campus Centre, he went on. Finally, Dean Counihan noted that the Province of Quebec has generously presented the University with some \$18,000 for emergency loans to international students. The funds will be controlled by the International Student Advisors.

81.2.8.2 Dr. Enos stated that the intra-mural participation in the Winter Carnival was very successful; they are now back on their regular schedule.

In the varsity area, Dr. Enos added, the men's and women's hockey teams are undefeated and the men's basketball schedule is getting down to an exciting finish. He then distributed a written report, CCSL 81-2-D4, for members perusal.

81.2.8.3 In Mr. Sproule's absence, Mr. Denton distributed copies of the Guidance Services' report, CCSL 81-2-D5.

81.2.9.3 Prof. Macaluso made a plea to Council that in thinking of the student population we not split them into fragments, but look at the whole person. Something which might contribute to Council's understanding would be to provide members with copies of the report of the special task force on curriculum. The raison d'etre of the Faculty of Arts and Science is being examined, and the decisions which are made - if Council were made aware of them - could enable members to be aware of what is affecting students in the total context. Dr. Breen noted that the work of the special task force is a natural, evolutionary outgrowth of the merger.

There being no further business, Dean Counihan MOVED and Dean Flynn SECONDED that the meeting be adjourned. MOTION CLARRIED.